Appl. No. 09/557,736
Amdt. sent December 23, 2003
Reply to Office Action of August 27, 2003

PATENT

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on line 5 of page 1 with the following amended paragraph:

A1

This application claims priority from U.S. Application 60/132,061, filed April 30, 1999 (attorney docket no. 16491-26.00US), and is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Application No. 09/538,132 xx/xxx,xxx, filed March 29, 2000 (attorney docket no. 16491-27.10US) which claims priority from U.S. Application 60/131,989, filed April 30, 1999 (attorney docket no. 16491-27.00US), all of which are assigned to the assignee of the present invention, all of which are herein fully incorporated by reference for all purposes.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on line 13 of page 3 with the following amended paragraph:

A2

In a co-pending application (U.S. Application No. 09/538,132 xx/xxx,xxx, filed March 29, 2000 having attorney docket no. 16491-27.10US) which is herein fully incorporated by reference and entitled "Method and Apparatus for Programmable Lexical Packet Classifier," a novel hardware lexical packet classifier is disclosed for providing line rate packet classification capability. The technique is based on regular expressions which are mapped to a DFA (deterministic finite automaton). The invention provides an effective solution for low layer packet classification applications.